

Appl. No. 10/007,186
Amdt. Dated: March 10, 2005
Office Action Dated: December 13, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of preventing defective germination or rosette formation of a plant seed which tends to suffer from defective germination or rosette formation during growth thereof comprising the steps of:

a) leaving the plant seed to stand in a highly watery condition at a low temperature in a dark place for a sufficient period of time to inhibit defective germination or rosette formation of the plant seed, the dark place being sufficiently dark to prevent the plant seed from germinating; and

b) drying the plant seed immediately after leaving the plant seed to stand in the highly watery condition at the low temperature in a dark place, before the seed becomes ~~active~~ active,

wherein in the step a) of leaving the plant seed in a highly watery condition the plant seed is immersed in water at a temperature of from 0 °C to 15 °C, and

wherein in the step b) of drying the plant seed the dark place is sufficiently dark to prevent exposure of the plant seed to an amount of light that is sufficient to cause the plant seed to germinate.

Claims 2 and 3 (Canceled)

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Claim 4 (New): A method of preventing defective germination or rosette formation of a plant seed which tends to suffer from defective germination or rosette formation during growth thereof comprising the steps of:

a) leaving the plant seed to stand in a highly watery condition at a low temperature in a dark place for a sufficient period of time to inhibit defective germination or rosette formation of the plant seed, the dark place being sufficiently dark to prevent the plant seed from germinating; and

b) drying the plant seed immediately after leaving the plant seed to stand in the highly watery condition at the low temperature in a dark place, before the seed becomes active,

wherein in the step a) of leaving the plant seed in a highly watery condition the plant seed is exposed to an environment having a relative humidity of about 100% and a temperature of from 0 °C to 15 °C, and

wherein in the step b) of drying the plant seed the dark place is sufficiently dark to prevent exposure of the plant seed to an amount of light that is sufficient to cause the plant seed to germinate.